

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 8, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2013
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 937

Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 2351 of the Probate Code, relating to conservators and guardians.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 937, as amended, Wieckowski. Conservators and guardians: personal rights of conservatees.

Existing law requires that a guardian or conservator of a person be responsible for the care, custody, control, and education of a ward or conservatee, subject to a court's determination of the extent of those powers, as specified.

This bill would provide that the conservator's control of the conservatee shall not extend to personal rights retained by the conservatee, including, but not limited to, the right to receive visitors, telephone calls, and *personal* mail, unless specifically limited by a court order or necessary to protect the conservatee from abuse.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2351 of the Probate Code is amended to read:

2351. (a) Subject to subdivision (b), the guardian or conservator, but not a limited conservator, has the care, custody, and control of, and has charge of the education of, the ward or conservatee. This control shall not extend to personal rights retained by the conservatee, including, but not limited to, the right to receive visitors, telephone calls, and *personal* mail, unless specifically limited by court order ~~or necessary to protect the conservatee from abuse~~.

(b) Where the court determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances of the particular conservatee, the court, in its discretion, may limit the powers and duties that the conservator would otherwise have under subdivision (a) by an order stating either of the following:

(1) The specific powers that the conservator does not have with respect to the conservatee's person and reserving the powers so specified to the conservatee.

(2) The specific powers and duties the conservator has with respect to the conservatee's person and reserving to the conservatee all other rights with respect to the conservatee's person that the conservator otherwise would have under subdivision (a).

(c) An order under this section (1) may be included in the order appointing a conservator of the person or (2) may be made, modified, or revoked upon a petition subsequently filed, notice of the hearing on the petition having been given for the period and in the manner provided in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 1460) of Part 1.

(d) The guardian or conservator, in exercising his or her powers, may not hire or refer any business to an entity in which he or she has a financial interest except upon authorization of the court. Prior to authorization from the court, the guardian or conservator shall disclose to the court in writing his or her financial interest in the entity. For the purposes of this subdivision, "financial interest" shall mean (1) an ownership interest in a sole proprietorship, a partnership, or a closely held corporation, or (2) an ownership interest of greater than 1 percent of the outstanding shares in a publicly traded corporation, or (3) being an officer or a director

1 of a corporation. This subdivision shall apply only to conservators
2 and guardians required to register with the Statewide Registry
3 under Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 2850).

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